

# The Dulleses: Men of Crisis

JOHN FOSTER DULLES: *The Last Year*, by Eleanor Lansing Dulles [Harcourt, Brace & World, 244 pages, \$4.95]

Reviewed by S. William Halperin

Eleanor Dulles, the 68-year-old sister of the late John Foster Dulles, has performed a labor of love. "While this study is not mainly a biography and not primarily a study of American foreign policy," she explains, "it is designed to show how the interests of a man in family, religion, friends, sport, travel, history, and philosophy made him the recognized craftsman in the making of foreign policy."

Drawing upon family records, her brother's private archives and correspondence, and the recollections of many of his associates, the author has put together a revealing and significant account. Altho there are innumerable digressions, mainly reminiscences, she seeks to accomplish her purpose by focusing on the events of her brother's last full year in office.

In January, 1953, President Eisenhower described Dulles as the best secretary of state since Thomas Jefferson. Altho the author cites this remark without comment, it is evident that she too regards her brother as one of the truly remarkable figures of our history.

She insists on his selflessness, his lack of interest in personal power for its own sake. She portrays him as a realist who was unwilling to sacrifice principle to expediency. She maintains that some of those who criticized him publicly had a private admiration for what he was doing.

Above all, she contends that he was misunderstood. Words like "brink" and "massive retaliation," which were bandied about when he was in office, were often taken out of context and adduced by others in a way that gave rise to false impressions of the man's aims and methods.

Dulles was a highly controversial figure in his lifetime, and he is likely to remain the object of contention among historians for a long time to come. Many sincere, well-informed, and respected observers have found little to commend in his conduct of American foreign policy.

Altho naturally partisan, this book will unquestionably help to set the record straight. As such, it should prove indispensable to all biographers of the late secretary.

S. William Halperin, Editor of the *Journal of Modern History*.



The Dulles family: Eleanor, John, and Allen

Allen Dulles refers to this lamentable boo-boo just twice, but what little he has to say only compounds the mystery of why the invasion was attempted in the manner it was, with such grossly inadequate support. Dulles writes:

"While I have not commented on any details of the Cuban operation and do not propose to do so here, I repeat now what I have said publicly before: I know of no estimate that a spontaneous uprising of the unarmed population of Cuba would be touched off by the landing."

He adds that his own OSS experience with the anti-Hitler underground during World War II and the tragedy of the patriots of Hungary in 1956 led to the conviction that "spontaneous revolutions by unarmed people in this modern age are ineffective and often disastrous."

And that appears to be all we shall hear from the former director of the CIA about the Bay of Pigs—for the present certainly.

As might be expected, his book is a defense of CIA operations other than the Cuban affair, and his long service in intelligence work has given Dulles a broad background from which to tell some interesting stories about "spooks" [spies], as we in OSS used to call ourselves. Most of them have probably been told before, tho there is an advantage in having them now in one packet.

Tho the book isn't sparkling, those interested in the age-old task of collecting intelligence probably will want to read it, no matter what they think of the author's handling of our big agency. And there is a lot about Russian methods of attempting to learn what we are up to in the field and some sober counseling as to their aims.

THE CRAFT OF INTELLIGENCE, by Allen Dulles [Harper & Row, 277 pages, \$4.95]

Reviewed by Percy Wood

You will look in vain thru these pages for an explanation of the Bay of Pigs fiasco in Cuba [April, 1961], charged to the American central intelligence agency, then headed by the author of "The Craft of Intelligence."

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Percy Wood of The Tribune staff was a naval reserve officer, attached to the office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in the Pacific east and Asia during World War II.

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